



Governing Body

323rd Session, Geneva, 12–27 March 2015

GB.323/INS/11(Add.)

Institutional Section

INS

Date: 13 March 2015

Original: English

ELEVENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General

Addendum

Relocation of the Regional Office for Africa (RO–Africa) to Abidjan

1. In March 2005, the Director-General informed the Governing Body, during its 292nd Session, of his intention to temporarily relocate the RO–Africa from Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This had become necessary because the ILO structures based in Abidjan were not able to function normally and effectively due to the instability prevailing in Côte d’Ivoire at that time.
2. On 3 June 2005, the Governing Body was informed of the administrative decision taken by the Director-General in full cooperation with the Governments of Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia and Senegal, to temporarily relocate the ILO Subregional Office to Dakar, Senegal, and the RO–Africa to Addis Ababa with effect from 1 July 2005. According to that decision, “the temporary move of the Abidjan Office to Addis Ababa would remain in effect as long as it was felt to be necessary, and the situation would be reviewed with the Governments of the Côte d’Ivoire and Ethiopia on a regular basis”.
3. The United Nations Secretary-General, reporting to the Security Council on 28 March 2013, welcomed “the significant progress that had been made in Côte d’Ivoire since the end of the violent post-elections crisis, particularly in the overall security situation”.¹
4. The 2014 Report of the UN Secretary-General referred to the “continued good progress being made in Côte d’Ivoire. The country is on the path of reconciliation, stability and economic recovery.”² In 2014, the Security Council, in line with the progress made on the

¹ Special Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire (S/2013/197). Available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2013_197.pdf.

² Thirty-fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire (S/2014/342). Available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2014_342.pdf.

ground, including the improved security situation, decided to lower authorized military and police levels even further and amend the mandate of UNOCI accordingly.³

5. By the end of 2014, 22 UN agencies, funds and programmes were operating in Côte d'Ivoire.
6. Recognizing that the emergency situation in Côte d'Ivoire, which had led to the relocation of RO–Africa, no longer exists, the Director-General, in response to a request from His Excellency Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to consider the return of the ILO structures to Abidjan, decided to field a mission to assess the situation. The ILO facilities have been efficiently maintained and are structurally sound. They can accommodate, with some refurbishment, the staff of RO–Africa and Abidjan Country Office. The team also held consultations with the Côte d'Ivoire's Government and social partners, ILO staff in the country as well as the UN Country Team. Preliminary consultations were also undertaken with the staff based in Addis Ababa and Abidjan and with their Staff Union representatives.
7. The Director-General has decided to initiate the process of returning ILO structures to Abidjan, including the RO–Africa from the current temporary location in Addis Ababa. The decision has been coordinated with the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia, who have shown full understanding.
8. The Office is currently preparing a “RO–Africa Relocation Plan”. Aspects that may have implications for staff will be conducted in consultation with the staff concerned and Staff Union representatives in accordance with relevant rules and regulations.
9. The relocation process will start in the current quarter and is expected to have been completed by mid-2016. It will commence with the re-establishment of a fully operational Country Office in Abidjan covering Côte d'Ivoire and other countries in the West Africa region. The recruitment of a Country Office Director has been initiated. The present number and location of Decent Work Technical Support Teams in the region (Cairo, Dakar, Pretoria and Yaoundé) will be maintained.
10. Over the past ten years, the ILO has been able to develop closer strategic ties with African organizations and institutions as well as with development partners based in Addis Ababa, primarily the African Union Commission (AUC), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). The Director-General considers it vital to preserve and further develop these partnerships.
11. The Office will also ensure that the relocation process will not adversely affect the organization of the African Regional Meeting scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa from 30 November to 3 December 2015.
12. A multidisciplinary mission, led by the Deputy Director-General, visited Abidjan on 9 March 2015 to further engage with Ivoirian authorities on the different steps envisaged in the near future prior to the re-establishment of the Country Office and those related to the RO–Africa relocation.

³ UN Security Council Resolution 2162 (2014) – S/RES/2162. Available at [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2162\(2014\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2162(2014)).